

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 01076 191344Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00  
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 SSM-03 MCT-01 SY-05 USSS-00 OPR-02 A-01  
OC-06 CCO-00 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00  
XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 SCS-03  
SCA-01 STR-04 AGRE-00 FEAE-00 /103 W  
-----191350Z 096474 /42

O 191305Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 798  
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE  
USIA WASHDC  
DIA WASHDC  
USMISSION SINAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1076

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, EG  
SUBJ: SITREP: CAIRO AT 1400, JAN 19

REF CAIRO 1053 (NOTAL)

1. AT 1400, SECURITY FORCES CONTINUED TO ENGAGE DEMONSTRATORS IN SEVERAL AREAS OF CAIRO. TEAR GAS BEING USED EXTENSIVELY THROUGHOUT DOWNTOWN AREAS AND IN POOR CLASS SEMI-CIRCLE FROM SAYYIDA ZAINAB ALL THE WAY AROUND TO IMBABA. IMBABA IS PARTICULAR HOT SPOT WITH HEAVY FIRING HEARD AND CLOUD OF TEAR GAS OVER AREA. SHOOTING WAS HEAR IN GIZA. LARGE GROUP OF DEMONSTRATORS APPEARS TO BE CONVERGING ON PEOPLES ASSEMBLY AREA FROM MOVING TAHRIR SQUARE ALONG KASR AL-AINI.  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 01076 191344Z

2. SMALL CHANTING GROUPS HAVE NOW (1420 LOCAL) APPEARED IN EMBASSY AREA, BUT ARE NOT MAKING COMPOUND THEIR GOAL. THERE WAS BRIEF EPISODE OF TEAR GAS AND FIRING ON LAZOGLI STREET NEXT TO EMBASSY.

3. AT NOON, CAIRO RADIO ANNOUNCED MININT WARNING THAT SEC-

URITY FORCES HAVE NOW RPT NOW BEEN ORDERED FIRE AT DEMONSTRATORS IF THEY CONTINUE DESTROY PUBLIC PROPERTY. INDICATIVE OF GRAVITY OF SITUATION IS FACT DMI INFORMED DATT AT NOON THAT ARMY WILL BE USED TO ASSIST RIOT POLICE IN RESTORING PUBLIC ORDER.

4. AT 1230 LOCAL, RADIO RADIO ANNOUNCED THAT CURFEW WOULD BEGIN TODAY 19 JAN, FROM 1600 TO 0600 IN CAIRO AND ITS SUBURBS (WHICH INCLUDES HELWAN). NO MENTION OF ALEXANDRIA. EXEMPTIONS FROM CURFEW MUST BE OBTAINED FROM MININT. IN TYPICAL FASHION, THERE IS CONFUSION ABOUT CURFEW. CAIRO SECURITY DIR CLAIMS THAT DESPITE RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT, CURFEW NOT YET FORMALLY APPROVED. NEVERTHELESS, IN VIEW OF ANNOUNCEMENT, EMBASSY SENDING EMPLOYEES HOME AT 1500 AND WILL KEEP SKELETON STAFF AT ZAHRA BUILDING ON COMPOUND.

5. OUTSIDE CAIRO: NO LATE NEWS FROM PORT SAID. RELIABLE SOURCE TELEPHONED FROM MAHALLA AL-KUBRA AT 1300 TO SAY SITUATION NORMAL AT THAT INDUSTRIAL DELTA TOWN; ALL WORKERS REPORTED TO TEXTILE FACTORY FOR WORK AND ATMOSPHERE NORMAL.

6. SO FAR, WE HAVE NO REPORTS OF INJURIES TO AMCITS OR AMERICAN PROPERTY.

7. COMMENT: EMBASSY'S INITIAL ASSESSMENT IS THAT COMMUNISTS/ LEFTISTS ARE NOT ONLY EXPLOITING SITUATION BUT WERE, AS GOE CLAIMS, MAIN INSTIGATORS IN TURNING POPULAR DISCONTENT INTO STREET VIOLENCE. THIS JUDGMENT IS BASED IN PART ON PROMINENT ROLE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS HAVE PLAYED IN DEMONSTRATIONS AND CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAIRO 01076 191344Z

THEIR USE OF NASSERIST SLOGANS. GOE BY ITS INEPT HANDLING OF PRICE INCREASE ANNOUNCEMENT, HAS GIVEN ITS OPPONENTS - COMMUNIST AND OTHERS - AN ISSUE WHICH ATTRACTS VAST MAJORITY OF URBAN EGYPTIAN LOWER AND MIDDLE CLASS. OPPOSITION WILL DO THEIR BEST TO KEEP MOMENTUM OF VIOLENCE ALIVE WITH VIEW TO BRINGING DOWN SALIM GOVT AND DISCREDITING SADAT.

8. WE HAVE JUST HEARD (1235 ZULU) ON CAIRO RADIO THAT PRESIDENTIAL DECREE HAS BEEN ISSUED "CANCELLING" ALL ECONOMIC DECLARATIONS MADE PREVIOUS DAY BY PRIMIN. THIS PREUMABLY REFERS TO PRICE INCREASES REPORTED CAIRO 1014.  
EILTS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, CIVIL DISORDERS, FOODS, PRICES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 CAIRO 1053  
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**TAGS:** PINS, EG  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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